

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /092 W
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R 060603Z MAG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5578
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 1259

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1215

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, UK
SUBJECT: NKOMO ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN A RHODESIAN CONSTITU-
TIONAL CONVENTION

1. JOSHUA NKOMO IN A MESSAGE PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST
EDITION THE ZIMBABWE'S PEOPLE S VOICE ADDRESSED THE
CURRENT STATUS OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND COMMENT
ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN A BRITISH-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON
RHODESIA. NKOMOS' MESSAGE WAS A REAFFIRMATION OF
PREVIOUSLY STATED PATRIOTIC FRONT VIEW ON THE LIBERATION
STRUGGLE. THE PASSAGE ON U.S. PARTICIPATION FOLLOWS:
"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WOULD LIKE TO CO-SPONSOR
THE CONFERENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. AT ONE
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TIME, WE WERE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT SHOULD CO-CHAIR THE CONFERENCE. WE HAVE MADE
OUR POSITION CLEAR ON THIS, AND IT IS THAT SOUTHERN
RHODESIA IS A COLONY OF BRITAIN. DECOLONIZATION OF THAT
COLONY IS BETWEEN US AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE
COMBATANTS IN THE WAR IN RHODESIA ARE OURSELVES AND THE

BRITISH, AND, THEREFORE, NO OTHER POWER SHOULD TAKE PART IN ANY CONFERENCE BETWEEN US AND OUR COLONISERS. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THE AMERICANS SHOULD NOT ASSIST IF THEY CAN. THEY CAN DO IT LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY DID IT IN GENEVA. IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON INTRODUCING THE UNITED STATES INTO THIS CONFERENCE, THEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACCEPT IF OTHER POWERS DEMAND TO BE IN THE CONFERENCE TOO. WE DO NOT WANT TO SPEND MONTHS ON END ON TRYING TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE WHEN THERE IS A CONFLICT OF AND BETWEEN NATIONS DEMANDING TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

2. THE FIRST ISSUE OF "THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S VOICE," WHICH CONTAINED THE NKOMO VIEWS, QUOTED ABOVE, DATED APRIL 30, 1977, CIRCULATED IN LUSAKA MAY 3. THE FOUR PAGE MIMEOGRAPHED PUBLICATION DESCRIBES ITSELF IN THE EDITORIAL AS A SISTER PUBLICATION OF "THE ZIMBABWE REVIEW." IT WAS LAUNCHED AT THIS TIME "TO COUNTERACT THE DELIBERATE DISTORTION OF THE VIEWS AND DEMANDS OF THE ZIMBABWEAN MASSES BY THE IMPERIALISTS NEWS MEDIA." THE PERIODICAL INDICATES THAT IT IS A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLE'S UNION (ZANU) (PATRIOTIC FRONT), LUSAKA.

COMMENT: THE EMBASSY FINDS IT INTRIGUING THAT A NEWLY LAUNCHED ZANU (PATRIOTIC FRONT) PUBLICATION WOULD CARRY A MESSAGE OF GREETING FROM NKOMO AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND NO MESSAGE FROM MUGABE OR SOME OTHER ZANU FIGURE.
LOW

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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